

Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL) and I recently wrote a letter to President Bush urging him to support stem cell research. Below is the letter to President Bush:

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We urge you to sign into law H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. We understand the concerns that led you to indicate you will veto the measure, but we respectfully ask you to reconsider that decision.

Everyone in this country knows a friend or family member who has been touched by the cruelty of diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's or cancer. In their quest for cures, scientists are making remarkable progress using the resources currently at their disposal. But stem cells hold so much promise that it's inconceivable not to expand this research. We implore you to let researchers go where the science leads and not where the politics dictate.

We do understand the concerns regarding expanding stem cell research. But H.R. 810 only allows the use of material created, but not used, during fertility treatments, and researchers must have the informed consent of the couple. The material that H.R. 810 makes available would otherwise be destroyed. It is simply tragic to let something so valuable go to waste when it has so much potential to alleviate so much suffering.

Strong majorities of Americans -- Republicans and Democrats alike -- support this legislation. Their representatives in both the Senate and House also back this needed reform. We do so because we strongly support treatment for diseases and we are passionate about finding cures.

Last, we are concerned that, absent H.R. 810, our country will risk losing not just more lives, but our very preeminence in medical research.

Thank you for considering our request. We stand ready to help you in any way we can on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk
Member of Congress



Judy Biggert
Member of Congress

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